

CANADIAN SECTION • WATERTON • SLAGIER INTERNATIONAL PEACE PARK

Didigby by Wagerton Lake, Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta, Canada

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TRAVEL BUREAU

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FOREWORD

The National Parks of Canada are areas of natural beauty and special interest that have been "dedicated to the people of Canada for their benefit, education, and enjoyment". Established primarily for the preservation of the unspoiled natural landscape and for the protection of the native wildlife, they are to be "maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

The discovery of mineral hot springs, bubbling from the slopes of Sulphur Mountain, by engineers exploring the route for Canada's first transcontinental railway, led to the establishment of Canada's first national park. From this small area of ten square miles at Banff, Alberta, set apart in 1885, the national parks system has been extended until it embraces 37 separate areas totalling more than 29,000 square miles.

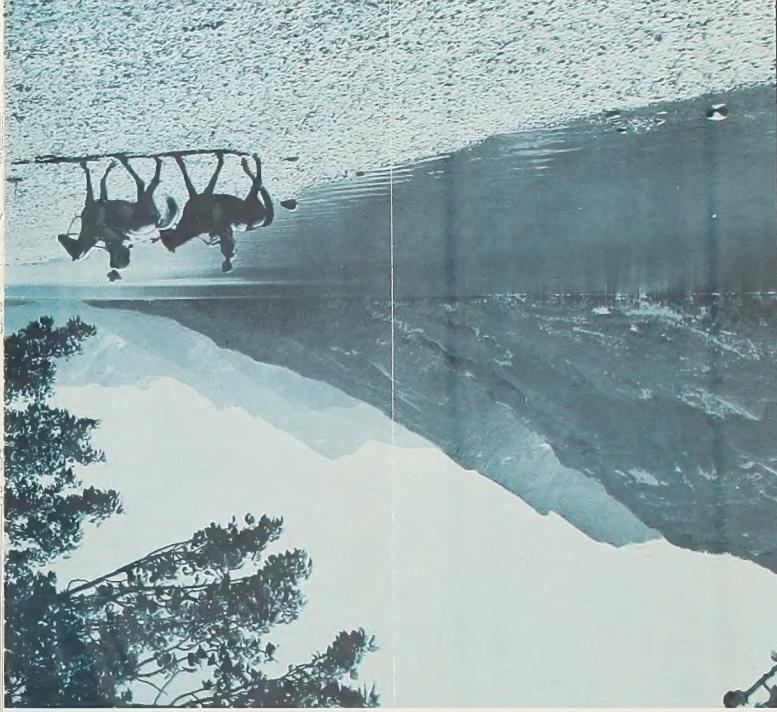
Although a few parks have been devoted chiefly to the conservation of certain species of big game animals once threatened with extinction, most contain sites memorable in the early history of Canada. Others have been developed so that park visitors may more conveniently view the magnificent scenery and relax in the enjoyment of the inspirational and peaceful environment. From the sea-girt hills on the Atlantic Coast across the rivers and lakes of Central Canada to the alpine vistas of the Rockies and Selkirks, these national playgrounds provide ideal areas for nature study and for recreation.

If it is the responsibility of the National Parks Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources to administer these natural areas for the enjoyment of Canada's present and future generations. By progressive stages the parks have been made more easily accessible, wildlife scientifically managed, public services provided, and development controlled. The Parks Branch has also established a network of wardens keeps constant vigilance throughout these park areas to ensure the protection of the flora and fauna, as well as the safety and convenience of park visitors. Conservation of the forests, the flowers, and the natural wildlife is their chief concern, and the co-operation of all visitors in this important work is greatly appreciated.

In marking, preserving, and restoring sites of national historic importance the National Parks Branch is advised by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, an honorary body of recognized historians representing various parts of the country. From Signal Hill in Newfoundland to Fort Langley in British Columbia, nineteen such sites are administered as National Historic Parks, and many other places of historical importance have been suitably commemorated.

The National Parks of Canada are part of a great national heritage, and under careful administration will continue as a perpetual asset—undiminished by use—for all future generations.

Published under the authority of
THE HONOURABLE ALVIN HAMILTON, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources



WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK ALBERTA

Location and Description

Waterton Lakes National Park, situated in the extreme south-west corner of the Province of Alberta, was set apart in 1895. It covers an area of 204 square miles along the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, west of the International Boundary. It is one of the most colourful and charming of Canada's mountain playgrounds. Its mountains rise almost abruptly from the plains; their remarkable colouring of purple, green, and gold give to the peaks a warm and brilliant tone.

In 1932, through legislation enacted by Canada and the United States, Waterton Lakes and Glacier National Parks were proclaimed the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park.

Waterton Lakes Park headquarters is located at Waterton Park townsite. In the business section of this townsite are to be found the customary services of a modern community. A monthly picture theatre and a dance hall are also located in the summer months. The Post Office is open daily except Sunday. Long distance telephone and telegraph services are available in the townsite.

How to Reach the Park

Waterton Lakes National Park is reached by the Provincial Highway system of Alberta, which connects all the major highways. From the east approach may be made from Medicine Hat, Red Deer, and Fort Macleod to Pincher Creek (town) and from there south to the park. An alternative route from Lethbridge is through Cardston. From British Columbia on the west, approach may be made via Crowsnest Pass and Pincher Creek, then northward to Pincher Creek and follow west from Edmonton to Calgary and Fort Macleod, and from there to the park, via Pincher. The park is also accessible via the Canadian Pacific Railway at Prince Albert, and by a convenient bus service which runs points between Pincher Creek and the park twice daily in summer, one way by Cardston and one by way of Pincher Creek. The trip takes approximately three hours. A station bus operates between Pincher Station and Pincher Creek, via Pincher Creek, and back to Pincher Creek. The bus also makes a daily round trip to Waterton Park. The bus always makes a daily round trip to Waterton Park.

The most direct approach to Waterton Lakes National Park from the United States is over the Chief Mountain International Highway from Glacier National Park. The Glacier Park Transport Company operates a frequent bus service on this route. This highway also forms a link in the new hard-surfaced route between Glacier National Park and Banff National Park.

Visitors travelling by air are served by the Trans-Canada Airlines and the Western Airlines which make scheduled stops at Lethbridge.



Golf—The golf course operated by the National Parks Branch is situated on the rolling slopes at the base of Mount Crandell, and has a fine scenic setting. It is an 18-hole course and has an exceptionally attractive club-house which is open to visitors. Light refreshments are served.

The green fee is \$1.25 for a round of eighteen holes (continuous) with comparable rates for daily, weekly, monthly, and seasonal periods.

Hiking and Climbing—Several well-marked trails in the vicinity of Waterton Park townsite offer fine outings on foot. These lead to Lake Linnet, half a mile from the townsite, Golf Links, two miles, and Bear's Hump (Mount Crandell), one mile. Peaks in the vicinity which may be climbed include Mount Crandell, 8,112 feet; Bear's Peak, 7,613 feet; Vimy Peak, 7,882 feet; Sola Mountain, 8,266 feet.

Motoring and Climbing—Nearly 50 miles of all-weather highways in the park provide delightful drives for visitors. Interesting motor trips may be had from Waterton Park townsite to the town of Pincher Creek, two miles, and Bear's Hump (Mount Crandell), one mile. Peaks in the vicinity which may be climbed include Mount Crandell, 8,112 feet; Bear's Peak, 7,613 feet; Vimy Peak, 7,882 feet; Sola Mountain, 8,266 feet.

Cameron Falls, which is at the edge of the Park townsite and is one of the finest cascades in the park, is reached by Cameron Falls Drive. A number of fish-bearing ponds, surrounded by beautiful gardens, are located near the falls.

Motorists travelling northward from Glacier National Park over the Chief Mountain International Highway pass through the picturesque valley of the Belly River. From this highway may be obtained a good view of the beauty of Waterton Lakes Park into peaceful solitudes of forest and open foothills where only the wild creatures break the stillness.

Playing Fields—A large open area in the centre of the townsite is used for baseball and other summer sports. A playground for children is also available nearby. It is equipped with chutes, swings, and other facilities for children's enjoyment; there is also a wading pool for tots.

Tennis—Tennis courts owned and operated by the National Parks Branch are available free of charge. They are situated near the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Barracks in Waterton Park townsite.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Registration and Motor Licences

All motorists entering Waterton Lakes National Park must register and obtain transient motor licences. Licences are issued for motor vehicles not used for commercial purposes on the following basis:

- (1) Single trip licence: Automobile, 25 cents; auto with trailer attached, 30 cents.
 - (2) Licence good for entire session, which is also honoured in Elk Island, Prince Albert, Riding Mountain, and Point Pelee National Parks: Automobile, \$1; auto with trailer attached, \$2.
 - (3) Special licence for entire session, which is honoured in all the National Parks of Canada: Automobile, \$2; auto with trailer attached, \$3.
- Special licences may be obtained for motor vehicles used for commercial purposes.

The Park Registration Office is situated at the junction of the Pincher, Cardston, and Chief Mountain International Highways, about 5½ miles north of Waterton Park townsite. The park twice daily in summer, one way by Cardston and one by way of Pincher Creek. The trip takes approximately three hours. A station bus operates between Pincher Station and Pincher Creek, via Pincher Creek, and back to Pincher Creek. The bus also makes a daily round trip to Waterton Park.

The most direct approach to Waterton Lakes National Park from the United States is over the Chief Mountain International Highway from Glacier National Park. The Glacier Park Transport Company operates a frequent bus service on this route. This highway also forms a link in the new hard-surfaced route between Glacier National Park and Banff National Park.

Visitors travelling by air are served by the Trans-Canada Airlines and the Western Airlines which make scheduled stops at Lethbridge.

Park Administration

A resident superintendent is in charge of the administration of Waterton Lakes National Park. The Administrative Building, located in Waterton Park townsite, contains the office of the park superintendent. The Park Information Bureau is located at the entrance to the Waterton Park townsite. It is open daily, and information concerning travel, recreation and places of interest may be obtained, as well as literature and detailed maps of the park. The park regulations are enforced by the Park Warden Service and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Wildlife Protection

The National Parks Act requires that all parks shall be maintained and managed so as to leave them unspoiled for the use of future generations. Therefore, all wildlife within park boundaries is rigidly protected, and hunting and the possession of unsighted firearms are strictly prohibited. As the parks are game sanctuaries, visitors must not molest any wild animals or birds, or their nests. Dogs or cats are not allowed in any national park except under special permission and licence, and must be accompanied by a certificate showing recent inoculation against rabies.



Trail Riding

In the development of Waterton Lakes National Park much thought has been given to the preservation of the landscape in its natural state. To make this scenery more accessible, roads and trails are to be built which may be extended from year to year. Developments of this nature have been carried out with as little disturbance as possible to the scenery, wildlife habitats, and natural phenomena of the area.

Although many of the park's beauty spots can be viewed from either the highway or the water routes, one has to take the trails to reach some of the more remote areas. Many places of exceptional scenic interest are within a day's ride of Waterton Park townsite or the park highways, and plenty of saddle-ponies are available for the use of visitors.

More than 150 miles of wide trails are open to visitors who desire to ride. Saddle-horses may be hired from local outfitters. Following are a few of the most popular shorter rides, with the only wild creatures break the stillness.

Bertha Lake, 3½ miles; Carthew Lakes, 6 miles; International Boundary (Lake Shore), 5 miles; Goatfoot Camp (Glacier Park), 9 miles; Cameron Lake (Akamina Highway), 10 miles; Spray Lake (from Hill Rustling Cabin), 5 miles; Red Rock Canyon, 11½ miles.

Another popular ride takes the rider over the trail to Bertha Lake, passing Waterton Park townsite as a starting point. The trail zig-zags up the side of Mount Bridle, past several waterfalls and then circles the lake. The waters of this lake are a vivid emerald shade and combine with the darker green of the forests and the red-streaked slopes of the surrounding peaks to form a striking picture.

A somewhat longer trip by trail up Blakiston Brook and its tributary Bauermon Brook will provide a delightful experience long to be remembered. The trail goes up the side of the Lake Sige Pass, Twin Falls, and over south Kootenay Pass. Fine glacial vantage points one may gaze down into alpine valleys carved by ancient glaciers and ringed by multi-coloured mountains whose slopes are dotted with low-lying firs, aspens, and birches. Here the nature lover may sit by the fire and listen to his heart beat, while the photographer secure some rare scenic gems and wildlife subjects for his snapshot album. The site lends itself admirably to colour photography. There is a good highway up the valley of Blakiston Brook, but far to the right, a trail which turns to the west boundary of the park region. This boundary, extending along the summit of the Canadian Rockies, is also the boundary between the Provinces of Alberta and British Columbia.

The Buffalo Herd

An exhibition herd of plains bison occupies a fenced area on the northern boundary of the park, just west of the highway to Pincher Creek. This buffalo range has clumps of poplar trees which provide shelter for the buffaloes, and a good year-round water supply from the Indian Springs. There are also several large ponds within the enclosure.

Accommodation

Accommodation in the park is provided by chalets, lodges and bungalow cabins. Most of the accommodation is provided by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who have establishments at Cameron Lake and Waterton River Bridge. The pamphlet entitled "Accommodation in Canadian National Parks" contains up-to-date information on these accommodations including the name, location, capacity, rates and plan. Copies may be obtained from the Parks Information Bureau or from the Canadian Government Travel Bureau, Ottawa.

Unless visitors are carrying their own camping equipment, or have cabin trailers, it is advisable to arrange accommodation in advance.

Camping

Camping has always been popular in the Waterton Lakes area. Since it became a national park, many of the most suitable camp-sites have been selected. Some have been equipped with electric running water, kitchen and community shelters, tables, chairs, fuel and sanitation facilities. Most of these camp-sites are within reasonable distance of supplies.

The main camp-ground in the park is located in the southern part of the Waterton Park townsite and covers an area of more than 35 acres. It is traversed by Cameron Creek and is part of an alluvial fan upon which the townsite is built. The camp-ground has been developed to provide sufficient sites to provide shelter for tents. The area is equipped with kitchens and community shelters. Trail-sites, equipped with electrical outlets, and sewer and water connections, are located on both sides of Cameron Creek. A caretaker and a matron are on hand during the summer months.



One of the most interesting trail trips in the park is from Waterton Park townsite to Cameron Lake by way of Alderson and Cawthron Lakes. From Cameron Lake a trail winds westward through Akamina Brook, and south to Wall Lake in British Columbia.

Trails leading to wilderness areas wind northward from the Registration Office to Yarrow Creek at the extreme northern boundary of the park, and from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Regimental Office to Vimy Peak and Vimy Ridge. By using Waterton Park townsite as a starting point, sightseeing trips by trail might include a ride along the east side of Upper Waterton Lake and the head of the lake to the west side of Upper Waterton Lake, and then southward to Goatfoot Camp, the head of the lake in Glacier National Park, thus affording opportunity to view some of the magnificent alpine scenery in the southern section of the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. A trail leading to the headwaters in Glacier National Park crosses the International Boundary and winds northward to Cawthron and Alderson Lakes and westward to Cameron Lake, where it joins the Akamina Highway.

Fauna and Flora

Animals and Birds—Wildlife is one of the main attractions of the park. Among the species of big mammals which may be seen are moose and white-tailed deer, grizzly and black bear, Rocky Mountain sheep, Rocky Mountain goat, elk and mule deer. Moose, elk, grizzly, black bear, bighorn sheep, porcupine, beaver, and several species of squirrel are also common. Bird life is abundant. The booklet entitled *Birds of Canada's Mountain Parks* is obtainable at the Parks Information Bureau—price, one dollar.

Trees and Flowers—The park contains many species which may interest the botanist and nature lover. For within this area the prairie flora and mountain flora meet. Among the species of trees found are the lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, balsam fir, Engelmann spruce, white spruce, jack pine, white birch, aspen, dwarf maple, and Lyall's or alpine larch. Shrubs include the diamond willow, saskatoon, elder, wild currant and blueberry.

Wild flowers are found in the valleys and along the mountain slopes in large numbers. Among the best known varieties are the yellow bell, yellow honeysuckle, goldenrod, mountain avens, larkspur, wild geranium, pasque flower, purple wind-flower, heliotrope, yellow columbine, avalanche lily, saxifrage, heather, and Jacob's ladder. Balsamroot and bear grass are among species also found in Waterton Lakes National Park. Visitors are requested to protect the trees and wild flowers and help keep the park beautiful.



Camp-grounds with kitchen shelters are also located at Alderson, Bertha, Cameron, Crandell, and Crypt Lakes, and at Red Rock Canyon. At Cameron Lake and Red Rock Canyon, caretakers are in attendance during July and August. Alderson, Bertha, Crandell and Crypt Lakes are not accessible by car.

Permits may be obtained from the camp attendants or at the office of the Park Superintendent.

Facilities are provided in the park for youth camping under the auspices of the Boy Scouts, Y.M.C.A., and church organizations.

The publication entitled "Camp-grounds and Trailer Parks in Canada's National Parks" contains up-to-date information, including the name, location, capacity, facilities available and fees, on all camping grounds in the national parks. Copies may be obtained from the park superintendents or from the Canadian Government Travel Bureau at Ottawa.

Recreation

Bathing—A modern outdoor swimming pool has been erected in Waterton Park townsite to accommodate park visitors during the summer season. The water in the pool is heated, chlorinated, and in continuous circulation. Dressing rooms, changing room, and a sun deck are available for use of patrons. A wading pool for children, separate from the main pool, has been incorporated in the development. Lifeguard services are also provided. The beach at Lake Cawthron, opposite the townsite, is ideal for bathing and swimming. Dressing-rooms have been built for the convenience of visitors, and a lifeguard who also acts as caretaker at the beach is in attendance from June to September.

Boating—Boating on Waterton Lakes and Maskinonge Lake is a favorite pastime. Power and rowboats may be hired near the dock at Waterton Park townsite. The powerboat "International" makes trips three times daily from Waterton Park townsite up the lake to Gouthro Landing in Glacier National Park, at a return fare of \$1.50. Launches are also operated by private enterprise.

Fishing—Consistent use of modern methods, including the operation of the Waterton Lakes Fish Hatchery, is designed to improve angling in the lakes and streams in the park. At the Park Information Bureau in Waterton Park townsite may be obtained a booklet "Fishing in Waterton Park" containing up-to-date information about angling.

A fishing licence is required for all mountain national parks, except Glacier and Mount Revelstoke, and may be obtained from the Park Information Bureau or from any park warden.

As special fishing regulations are in force from time to time, visitors are requested to consult park officers regarding open waters, catch limits, and the procuring of fishing licences.

Climbing—The National Parks Regulations require that all persons, before climbing a mountain, shall register with the nearest park warden, giving the date, place, route, height, time, and proposed route and the duration of the trip. Persons camping overnight are subject to the same regulations. Inexperienced climbers should obtain the services of a guide and full information concerning the necessary equipment. Visitors unaccustomed to mountain terrain should exercise great caution when climbing or hiking in unfamiliar country.

Fire Prevention

Camp-fires may be kindled only at places provided for the purpose, and must be completely extinguished before campers leave the site. Persons camping over night, at other than established camp-grounds, must first register with the nearest park warden and also obtain a permit to light a camp-fire.

Any fire observed by a park visitor should be extinguished if possible. Fires which cannot be put out promptly should be reported to the nearest park officer. A fire in a national park may cause damage which cannot be repaired in a century.

Films

An outdoor theatre is located in the main camp-ground where films depicting National Parks of Canada, travel, nature and other subjects are shown weekly, free of charge.

Motion picture films, 16 mm., mostly in colour with sound, depicting National Parks of Canada are available through various distribution outlets in Canada and the United States.

Full information can be obtained from all regional offices of the National Film Board in Canada, and from the Canadian Travel Film Libraries at:

111 North Wabash Avenue, CHICAGO 2, Ill., and

630 Fifth Ave., NEW YORK 20, N.Y., U.S.A.

Catalogues of the latest films are available at the Canadian Government Travel Bureau, Ottawa.

Compiled by the Canadian Government Travel Bureau in co-operation with the National Parks Branch, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

For further information write to:

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TRAVEL BUREAU
OTTAWA, CANADA